



US010205224B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Mow et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 10,205,224 B2**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 12, 2019**

(54) **ELECTRONIC DEVICE WITH MILLIMETER WAVE ANTENNA ARRAYS**

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC H01Q 21/293; H01Q 1/2283; H01Q 1/242-1/243

(71) Applicant: **Apple Inc.**, Cupertino, CA (US)

See application file for complete search history.

(72) Inventors: **Matthew A. Mow**, Los Altos, CA (US);
Basim H. Noori, San Jose, CA (US);
Mattia Pascolini, San Francisco, CA (US);
Xu Han, San Jose, CA (US);
Victor C. Lee, Sunnyvale, CA (US);
Ming-Ju Tsai, Cupertino, CA (US);
Simone Paulotto, Redwood City, CA (US)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,888,597 A 12/1989 Rebiez et al.
2010/0033393 A1 2/2010 Myszne et al.

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 102349073 A 2/2012
CN 103339796 A 10/2013

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — Ricardo I Magallanes

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Treyz Law Group, P.C.;
G. Victor Treyz; Joseph F. Guihan

(73) Assignee: **Apple Inc.**, Cupertino, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 20 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **15/275,183**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 23, 2016**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2018/0090816 A1 Mar. 29, 2018

(51) **Int. Cl.**

H01Q 1/22 (2006.01)
H01Q 1/24 (2006.01)
H01Q 1/48 (2006.01)
H01Q 9/04 (2006.01)
H01Q 21/06 (2006.01)
H01Q 21/28 (2006.01)

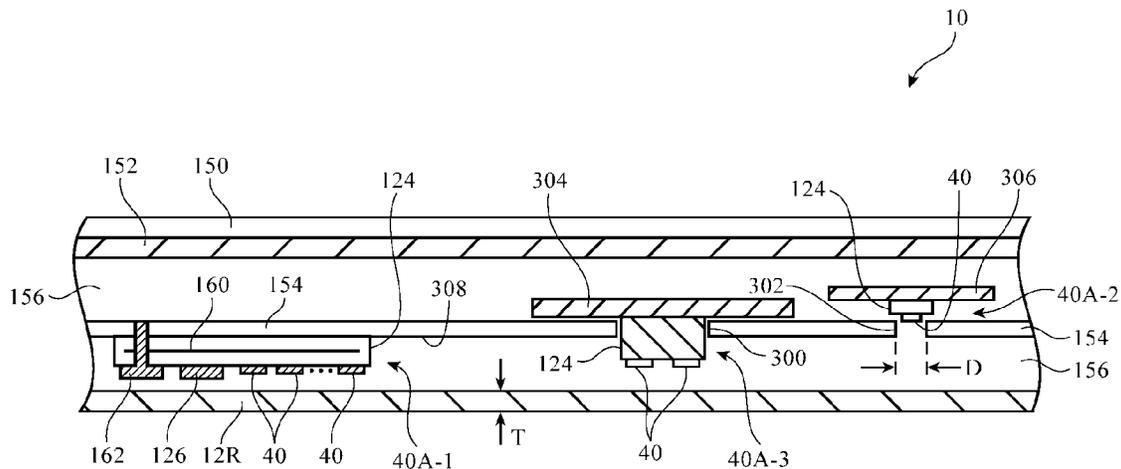
(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H01Q 1/243** (2013.01); **H01Q 1/22** (2013.01); **H01Q 1/242** (2013.01); **H01Q 1/48** (2013.01); **H01Q 9/0421** (2013.01); **H01Q 21/062** (2013.01); **H01Q 21/065** (2013.01); **H01Q 21/28** (2013.01); **H01Q 1/2283** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An electronic device may be provided with wireless circuitry. The wireless circuitry may include one or more antennas. The antennas may include millimeter wave antenna arrays formed from arrays of patch antennas, dipole antennas or other millimeter wave antennas on millimeter wave antenna array substrates. Circuitry such as upconverter and downconverter circuitry may be mounted on the substrates. The upconverter and downconverter may be coupled to wireless communications circuitry such as a baseband processor circuit using an intermediate frequency signal path. The electronic device may have opposing front and rear faces. A display may cover the front face. A rear housing wall may cover the rear face. A metal midplate may be interposed between the display and rear housing wall. Millimeter wave antenna arrays may transmit and receive antenna signals through the rear housing wall.

22 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2012/0235881 A1 9/2012 Pan et al.
2013/0278468 A1 10/2013 Yehezky et al.
2015/0249485 A1* 9/2015 Ouyang H04B 5/0081
455/41.1
2016/0248169 A1* 8/2016 Mohammadian H01Q 21/065
2017/0062953 A1* 3/2017 Teshima H01Q 21/28

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

CN 104332719 A 2/2015
CN 204539638 U 8/2015
CN 105811079 A 7/2016
JP 2014123945 A 7/2014

* cited by examiner

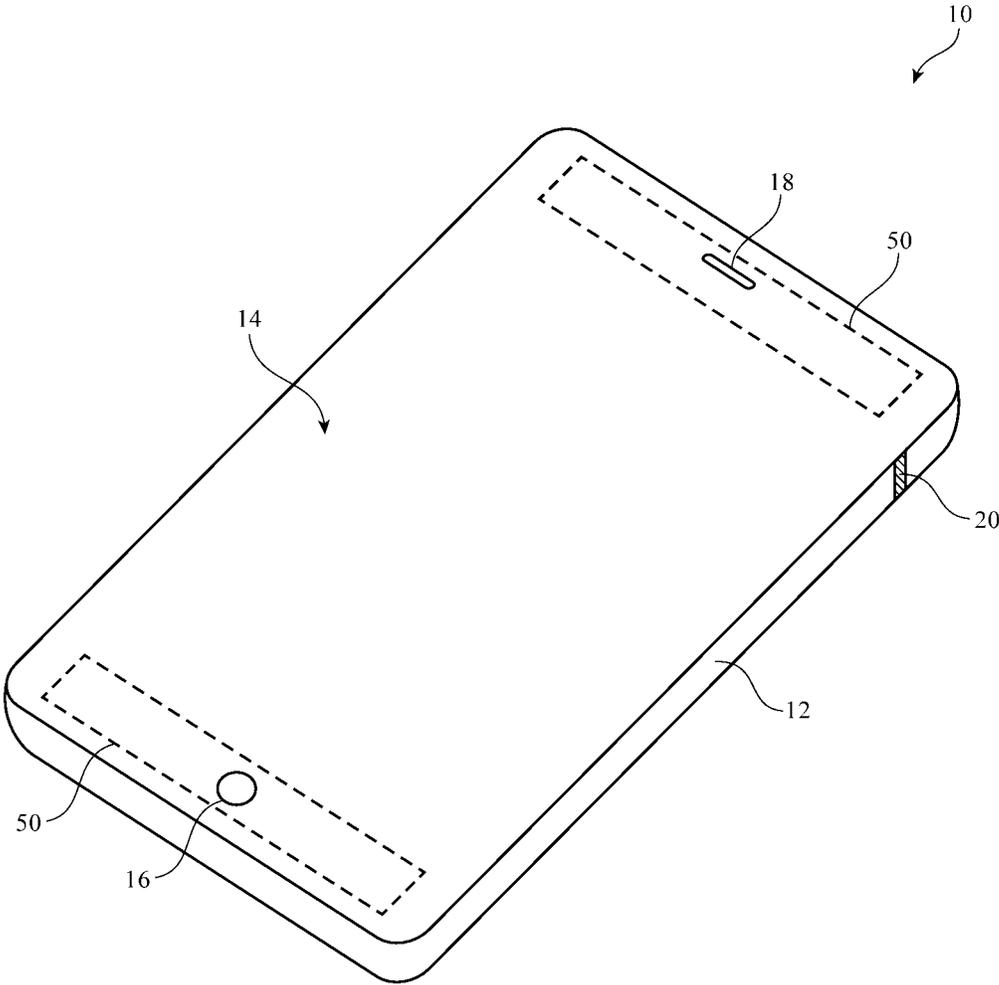


FIG. 1

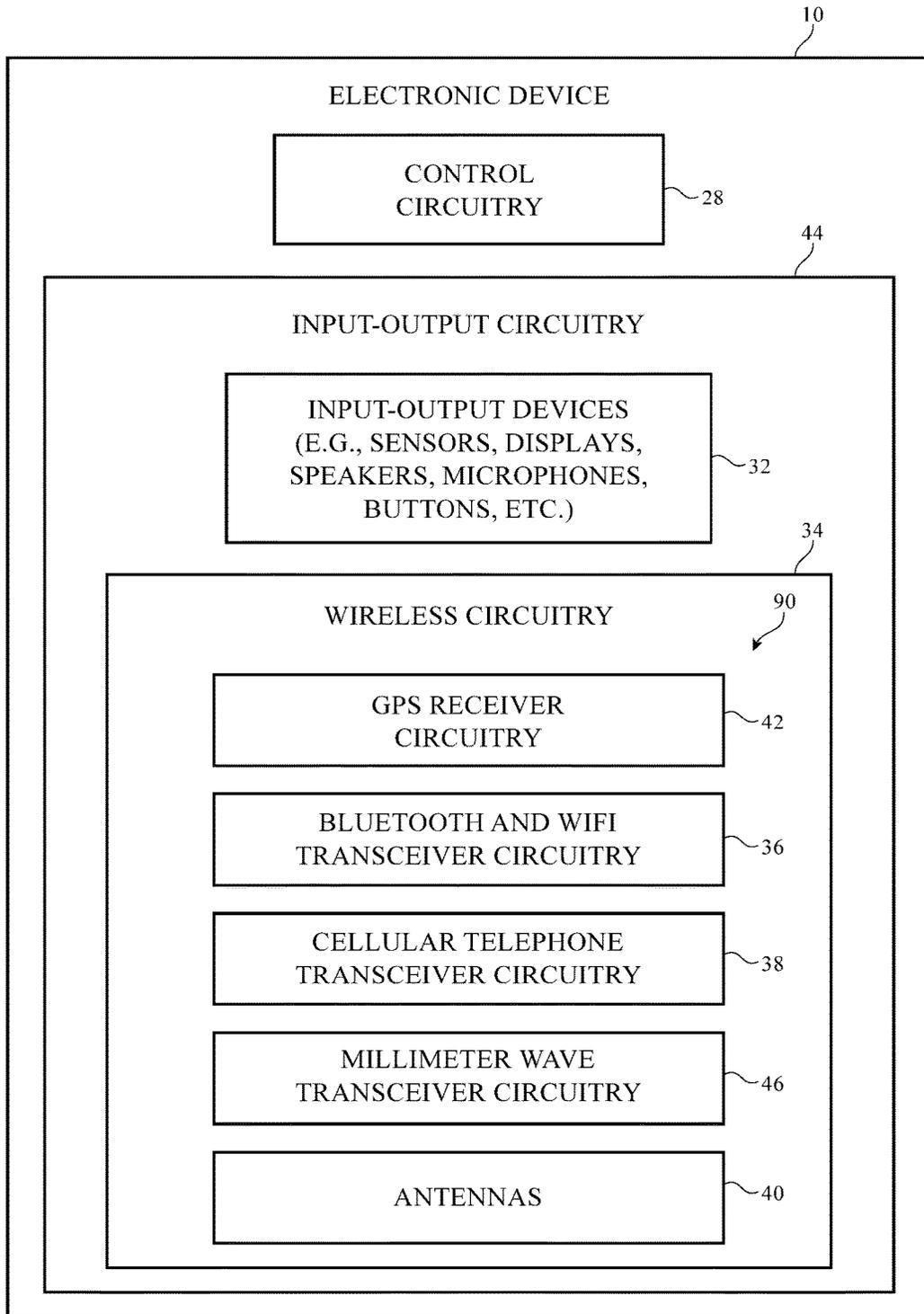


FIG. 2

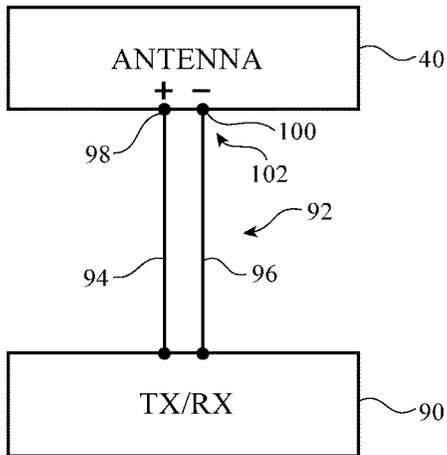


FIG. 3

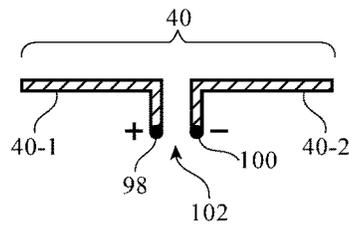


FIG. 4

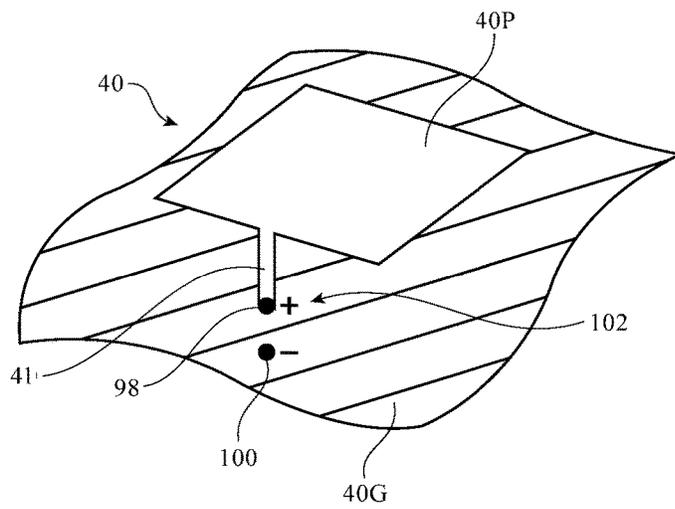


FIG. 5

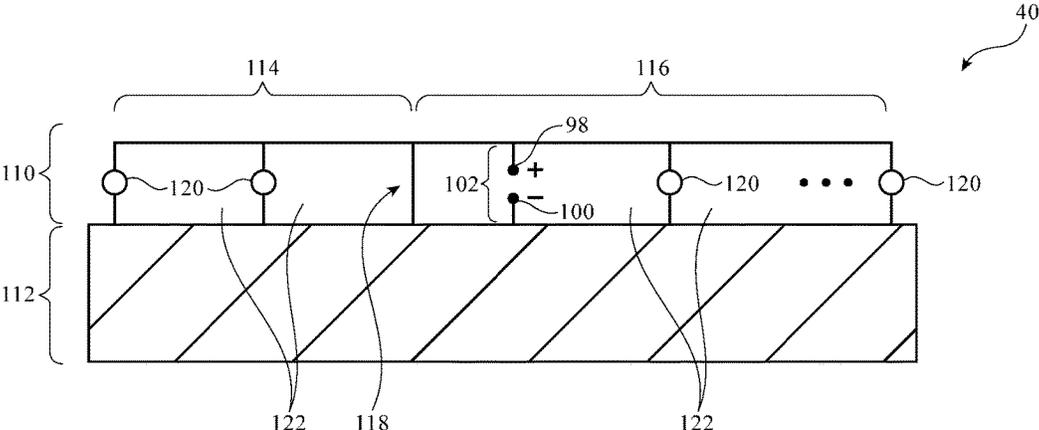


FIG. 6

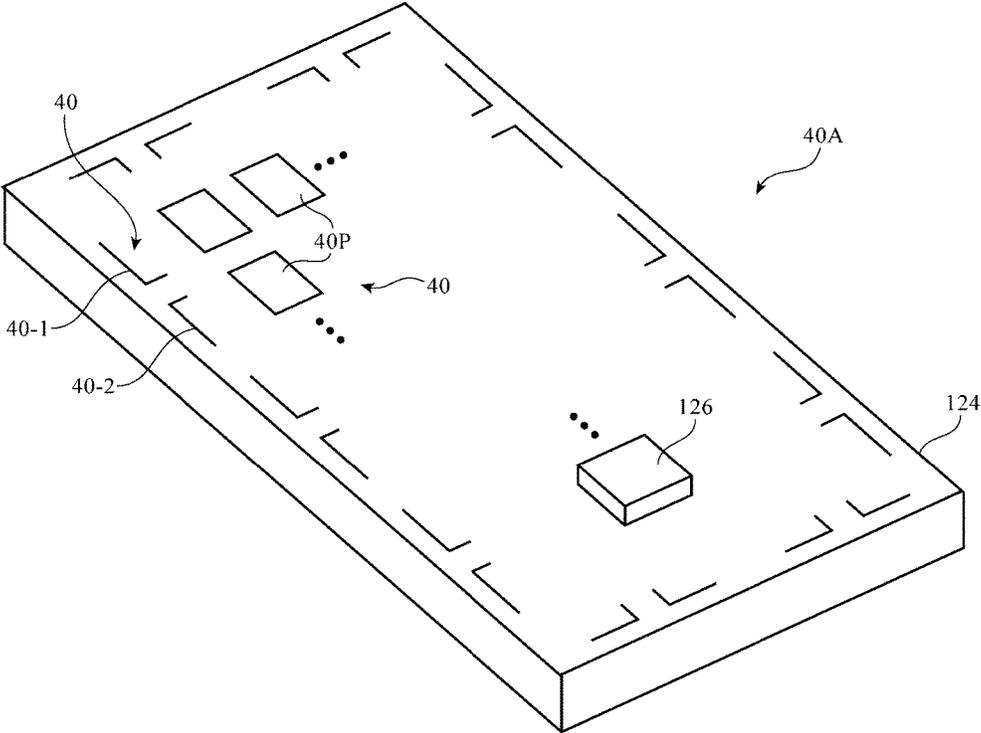


FIG. 7

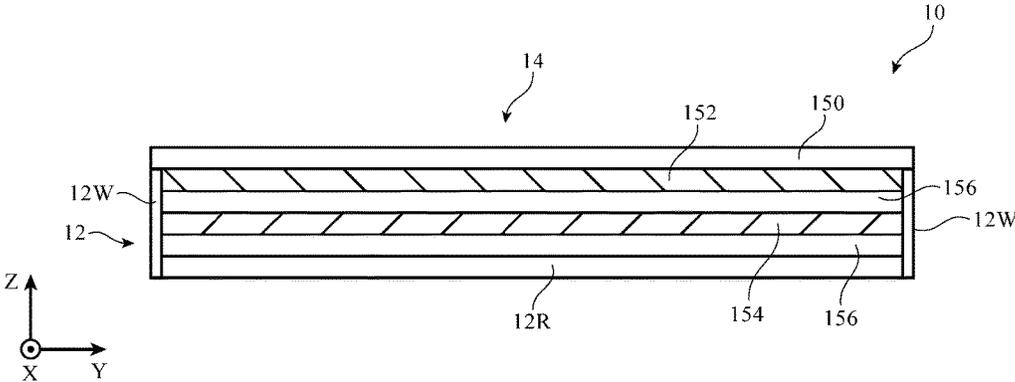
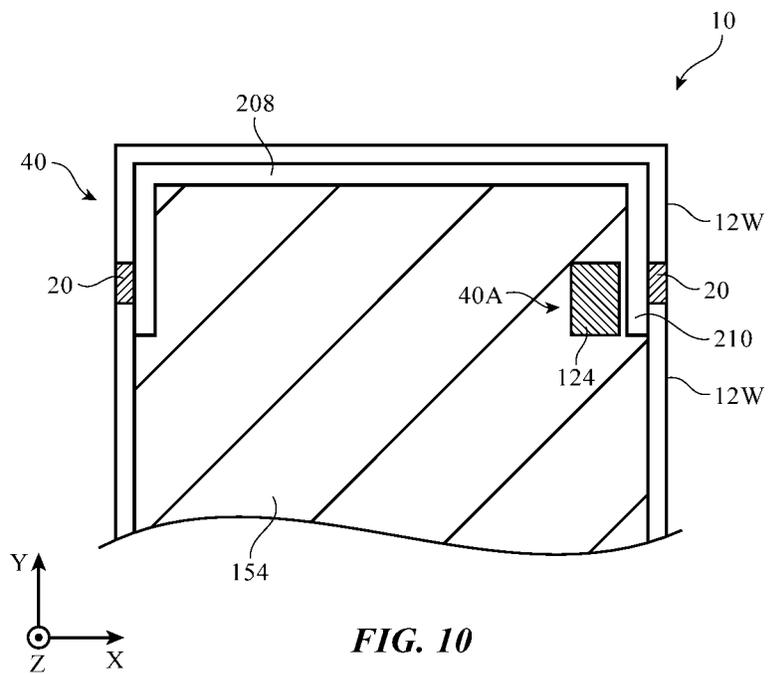
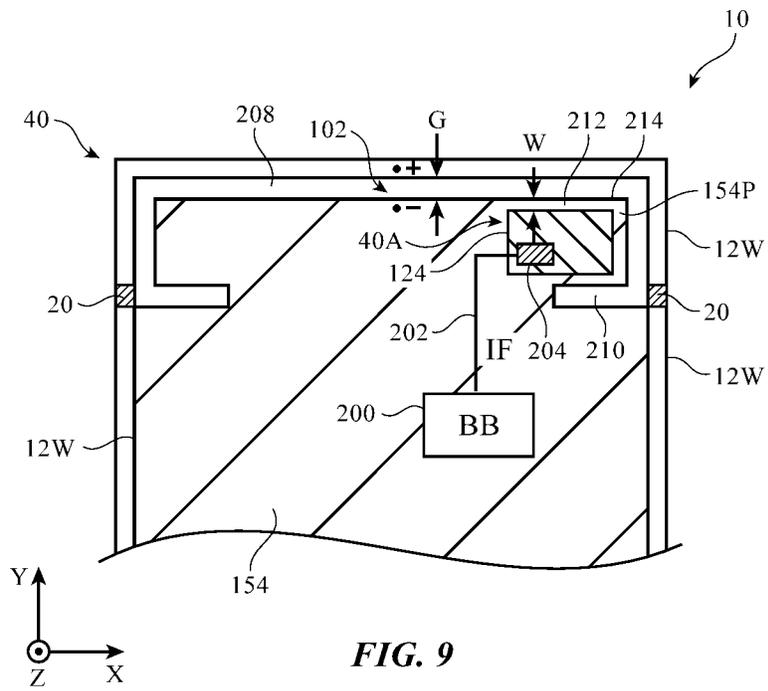


FIG. 8



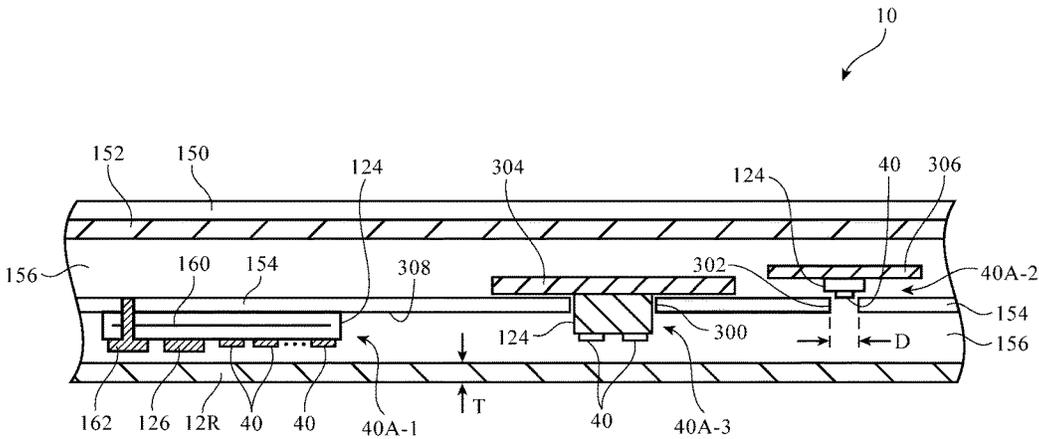


FIG. 11

ELECTRONIC DEVICE WITH MILLIMETER WAVE ANTENNA ARRAYS

BACKGROUND

This relates generally to electronic devices and, more particularly, to electronic devices with wireless communications circuitry.

Electronic devices often include wireless communications circuitry. For example, cellular telephones, computers, and other devices often contain antennas and wireless transceivers for supporting wireless communications.

It may be desirable to support wireless communications in millimeter wave communications bands. Millimeter wave communications, which are sometimes referred to as extremely high frequency (EHF) communications, involve communications at frequencies of about 10-400 GHz. Operation at these frequencies may support high bandwidths, but may raise significant challenges. For example, it can be difficult to incorporate millimeter wave communications circuitry into electronic devices that include other types of communications circuitry and that include metal housing structures.

SUMMARY

An electronic device may be provided with wireless circuitry. The wireless circuitry may include one or more antennas. The antennas may include millimeter wave antenna arrays formed from arrays of millimeter wave antennas on millimeter wave antenna array substrates. The antennas may also include wireless local area network antennas, satellite navigation system antennas, cellular telephone antennas, and other antennas.

Circuitry such as upconverter and downconverter circuitry may be mounted on the substrate of a millimeter wave antenna array. The upconverter and downconverter circuitry may be coupled to wireless communications circuitry such as a baseband processor circuit using an intermediate frequency signal path.

The electronic device may have opposing front and rear faces. A display may cover the front face. A rear housing wall may cover the rear face. A metal midplate may be interposed between the display and rear housing wall. The rear housing wall may be formed from a dielectric such as glass (e.g., a layer of glass), plastic, etc. Millimeter wave antenna arrays may transmit and receive antenna signals through the rear housing wall.

A millimeter wave antenna array may be interposed between the midplate and the rear housing wall, may be mounted to a printed circuit that is interposed between the midplate and the display so that the substrate of the millimeter wave antenna array protrudes through an opening in the midplate, and/or may be located between the midplate and the display so that millimeter wave antenna signals may be transmitted and received through an opening in the midplate and through the rear housing wall.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an illustrative electronic device with wireless communications circuitry in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an illustrative electronic device with wireless communications circuitry in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 3 is a diagram of an illustrative transceiver circuit and antenna in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a diagram of an illustrative dipole antenna in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of an illustrative patch antenna that may be used in an electronic device in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a diagram of an illustrative antenna such as a cellular telephone antenna that includes an inverted-F antenna resonating element in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of an illustrative array of millimeter wave antennas on a millimeter wave antenna array substrate in accordance with an embodiment.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional side view of an illustrative electronic device in accordance with an embodiment.

FIGS. 9 and 10 are top interior views of illustrative electronic devices with antennas in accordance with embodiments.

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional side view of an illustrative electronic device with antennas in accordance with an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An electronic device such as electronic device **10** of FIG. **1** may contain wireless circuitry. The wireless circuitry may include one or more antennas. The antennas may include cellular telephone antennas, wireless local area network antennas (e.g., WiFi® antennas at 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz and other suitable wireless local area network antennas), satellite navigation system signals, and near-field communications antennas. The antennas may also include antennas for handling millimeter wave communications. For example, the antennas may include millimeter wave phased antenna arrays. Millimeter wave communications, which are sometimes referred to as extremely high frequency (EHF) communications, involve signals at 60 GHz or other frequencies between about 10 GHz and 400 GHz.

Electronic device **10** may be a computing device such as a laptop computer, a computer monitor containing an embedded computer, a tablet computer, a cellular telephone, a media player, or other handheld or portable electronic device, a smaller device such as a wristwatch device, a pendant device, a headphone or earpiece device, a device embedded in eyeglasses or other equipment worn on a user's head, or other wearable or miniature device, a television, a computer display that does not contain an embedded computer, a gaming device, a navigation device, an embedded system such as a system in which electronic equipment with a display is mounted in a kiosk or automobile, equipment that implements the functionality of two or more of these devices, or other electronic equipment. In the illustrative configuration of FIG. **1**, device **10** is a portable device such as a cellular telephone, media player, tablet computer, or other portable computing device. Other configurations may be used for device **10** if desired. The example of FIG. **1** is merely illustrative.

As shown in FIG. **1**, device **10** may include a display such as display **14**. Display **14** may be mounted in a housing such as housing **12**. For example, device **10** may have opposing front and rear faces and display **14** may be mounted in housing **12** so that display **14** covers the front face of device **10** as shown in FIG. **1**. Housing **12**, which may sometimes be referred to as an enclosure or case, may be formed of plastic, glass, ceramics, fiber composites, metal (e.g., stainless steel, aluminum, etc.), other suitable materials, or a

combination of any two or more of these materials. Housing 12 may be formed using a unibody configuration in which some or all of housing 12 is machined or molded as a single structure or may be formed using multiple structures (e.g., an internal frame structure, one or more structures that form exterior housing surfaces, etc.). If desired, different portions of housing 12 may be formed from different materials. For example, housing sidewalls may be formed from metal and some or all of the rear wall of housing 12 may be formed from a dielectric such as plastic, glass, ceramic, sapphire, etc. Dielectric rear housing wall materials such as these may, if desired, be laminated with metal plates and/or other metal structures to enhance the strength of the rear housing wall (as an example).

Display 14 may be a touch screen display that incorporates a layer of conductive capacitive touch sensor electrodes or other touch sensor components (e.g., resistive touch sensor components, acoustic touch sensor components, force-based touch sensor components, light-based touch sensor components, etc.) or may be a display that is not touch-sensitive. Capacitive touch screen electrodes may be formed from an array of indium tin oxide pads or other transparent conductive structures.

Display 14 may include an array of pixels formed from liquid crystal display (LCD) components, an array of electrophoretic pixels, an array of plasma pixels, an array of organic light-emitting diode pixels, an array of electrowetting pixels, or pixels based on other display technologies.

Display 14 may be protected using a display cover layer such as a layer of transparent glass, clear plastic, sapphire, or other transparent dielectric. Openings may be formed in the display cover layer. For example, an opening may be formed in the display cover layer to accommodate a button such as button 16. Buttons such as button 16 may also be formed from capacitive touch sensors, light-based touch sensors, or other structures that can operate through the display cover layer without forming an opening.

If desired, an opening may be formed in the display cover layer to accommodate a port such as speaker port 18. Openings may be formed in housing 12 to form communications ports (e.g., an audio jack port, a digital data port, etc.). Openings in housing 12 may also be formed for audio components such as a speaker and/or a microphone. Dielectric-filled openings 20 such as plastic-filled openings may be formed in metal portions of housing 12 such as in metal sidewall structures (e.g., to serve as antenna windows and/or to serve as gaps that separate portions of antennas from each other).

Antennas may be mounted in housing 12. If desired, some of the antennas (e.g., antenna arrays that may implement beam steering, etc.) may be mounted under dielectric portions of device 10 (e.g., portions of the display cover layer, portions of a plastic antenna window in a metal housing sidewall portion of housing 12, etc.). With one illustrative configuration, some or all of rear face of device 12 may be formed from a dielectric. For example, the rear wall of housing 12 may be formed from glass plastic, ceramic, other dielectric. In this type of arrangement, antennas may be mounted within the interior of device 10 in a location that allows the antennas to transmit and receive antenna signals through the rear wall of device 10 (and, if desired, through optional dielectric sidewall portions in housing 12). Antennas may also be formed from metal sidewall structures in housing 12 and may be located in peripheral portions of device 10.

To avoid disrupting communications when an external object such as a human hand or other body part of a user

blocks one or more antennas, antennas may be mounted at multiple locations in housing 12. Sensor data such as proximity sensor data, real-time antenna impedance measurements, signal quality measurements such as received signal strength information, and other data may be used in determining when one or more antennas is being adversely affected due to the orientation of housing 12, blockage by a user's hand or other external object, or other environmental factors. Device 10 can then switch one or more replacement antennas into use in place of the antennas that are being adversely affected.

Antennas may be mounted at the corners of housing, along the peripheral edges of housing 12, on the rear of housing 12, under the display cover layer that is used in covering and protecting display 14 on the front of device 10 (e.g., a glass cover layer, a sapphire cover layer, a plastic cover layer, other dielectric cover layer structures, etc.), under a dielectric window on a rear face of housing 12 or the edge of housing 12, under a dielectric rear wall of housing 12, or elsewhere in device 10. As an example, antennas may be mounted at one or both ends 50 of device 10 (e.g., along the upper and lower edges of housing 12, at the corners of housing 12, etc.).

A schematic diagram of illustrative components that may be used in device 10 is shown in FIG. 2. As shown in FIG. 2, device 10 may include storage and processing circuitry such as control circuitry 28. Control circuitry 28 may include storage such as hard disk drive storage, nonvolatile memory (e.g., flash memory or other electrically-programmable-read-only memory configured to form a solid state drive), volatile memory (e.g., static or dynamic random-access-memory), etc. Processing circuitry in control circuitry 28 may be used to control the operation of device 10. This processing circuitry may be based on one or more microprocessors, microcontrollers, digital signal processors, baseband processor integrated circuits, application specific integrated circuits, etc.

Control circuitry 28 may be used to run software on device 10, such as internet browsing applications, voice-over-internet-protocol (VOIP) telephone call applications, email applications, media playback applications, operating system functions, etc. To support interactions with external equipment, control circuitry 28 may be used in implementing communications protocols. Communications protocols that may be implemented using control circuitry 28 include internet protocols, wireless local area network protocols (e.g., IEEE 802.11 protocols—sometimes referred to as WiFi®), protocols for other short-range wireless communications links such as the Bluetooth® protocol, cellular telephone protocols, MIMO protocols, antenna diversity protocols, satellite navigation system protocols, millimeter wave communications protocols, etc.

Device 10 may include input-output circuitry 44. Input-output circuitry 44 may include input-output devices 32. Input-output devices 32 may be used to allow data to be supplied to device 10 and to allow data to be provided from device 10 to external devices. Input-output devices 32 may include user interface devices, data port devices, and other input-output components. For example, input-output devices may include touch screens, displays without touch sensor capabilities, buttons, joysticks, scrolling wheels, touch pads, key pads, keyboards, microphones, cameras, speakers, status indicators, light sources, audio jacks and other audio port components, digital data port devices, light sensors, accelerometers or other components that can detect motion and device orientation relative to the Earth, capacitance sensors, proximity sensors (e.g., a capacitive proximity sensor and/or

an infrared proximity sensor), magnetic sensors, and other sensors and input-output components.

Input-output circuitry **44** may include wireless communications circuitry **34** for communicating wirelessly with external equipment. Wireless communications circuitry **34** may include radio-frequency (RF) transceiver circuitry formed from one or more integrated circuits, power amplifier circuitry, low-noise input amplifiers, passive RF components, one or more antennas **40**, transmission lines, and other circuitry for handling RF wireless signals. Wireless signals can also be sent using light (e.g., using infrared communications).

Wireless communications circuitry **34** may include radio-frequency transceiver circuitry **90** for handling various radio-frequency communications bands. For example, circuitry **34** may include transceiver circuitry **36**, **38**, **42**, and **46**.

Transceiver circuitry **36** may be wireless local area network transceiver circuitry. Transceiver circuitry **36** may handle 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands for WiFi® (IEEE 802.11) communications and may handle the 2.4 GHz Bluetooth® communications band.

Circuitry **34** may use cellular telephone transceiver circuitry **38** for handling wireless communications in frequency ranges such as a communications band from 700 to 960 MHz, a band from 1710 to 2170 MHz, a band from 2300 to 2700 MHz, other bands between 700 and 2700 MHz, higher bands such as LTE bands **42** and **43** (3.4-3.6 GHz), or other cellular telephone communications bands. Circuitry **38** may handle voice data and non-voice data.

Millimeter wave transceiver circuitry **46** (sometimes referred to as extremely high frequency transceiver circuitry) may support communications at extremely high frequencies (e.g., millimeter wave frequencies such as extremely high frequencies of 10 GHz to 400 GHz or other millimeter wave frequencies). For example, circuitry **46** may support IEEE 802.11ad communications at 60 GHz. Circuitry **46** may be formed from one or more integrated circuits (e.g., multiple integrated circuits mounted on a common printed circuit in a system-in-package device, one or more integrated circuits mounted on different substrates, etc.).

Wireless communications circuitry **34** may include satellite navigation system circuitry such as Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver circuitry **42** for receiving GPS signals at 1575 MHz or for handling other satellite positioning data (e.g., GLONASS signals at 1609 MHz). Satellite navigation system signals for receiver **42** are received from a constellation of satellites orbiting the earth.

In satellite navigation system links, cellular telephone links, and other long-range links, wireless signals are typically used to convey data over thousands of feet or miles. In WiFi® and Bluetooth® links at 2.4 and 5 GHz and other short-range wireless links, wireless signals are typically used to convey data over tens or hundreds of feet. Extremely high frequency (EHF) wireless transceiver circuitry **46** may convey signals over these short distances that travel between transmitter and receiver over a line-of-sight path. To enhance signal reception for millimeter wave communications, phased antenna arrays and beam steering techniques may be used (e.g., schemes in which antenna signal phase and/or magnitude for each antenna in an array is adjusted to perform beam steering). Antenna diversity schemes may also be used to ensure that the antennas that have become blocked or that are otherwise degraded due to the operating environment of device **10** can be switched out of use and higher-performing antennas used in their place.

Wireless communications circuitry **34** can include circuitry for other short-range and long-range wireless links if desired. For example, wireless communications circuitry **34** may include circuitry for receiving television and radio signals, paging system transceivers, near field communications (NFC) circuitry, etc.

Antennas **40** in wireless communications circuitry **34** may be formed using any suitable antenna types. For example, antennas **40** may include antennas with resonating elements that are formed from loop antenna structures, patch antenna structures, inverted-F antenna structures, slot antenna structures, planar inverted-F antenna structures, monopoles, dipoles, helical antenna structures, Yagi (Yagi-Uda) antenna structures, hybrids of these designs, etc. If desired, one or more of antennas **40** may be cavity-backed antennas. Different types of antennas may be used for different bands and combinations of bands. For example, one type of antenna may be used in forming a local wireless link antenna and another type of antenna may be used in forming a remote wireless link antenna. Dedicated antennas may be used for receiving satellite navigation system signals or, if desired, antennas **40** can be configured to receive both satellite navigation system signals and signals for other communications bands (e.g., wireless local area network signals and/or cellular telephone signals). Antennas **40** can include phased antenna arrays for handling millimeter wave communications.

In configurations for device **10** in which housing **12** has portions formed from metal, openings may be formed in the metal portions to accommodate antennas **40**. For example, openings in a metal housing wall may be used in forming splits (gaps) between resonating element structures and ground structures in cellular telephone antennas. These openings may be filled with a dielectric such as plastic. As shown in FIG. 1, for example, a portion of plastic-filled opening **20** may run up one or more of the sidewalls of housing **12**.

A schematic diagram of a millimeter wave antenna or other antenna **40** coupled to transceiver circuitry **90** (e.g., millimeter wave transceiver circuitry **46** and/or other transceiver circuitry **90**) is shown in FIG. 3. As shown in FIG. 3, radio-frequency transceiver circuitry **90** may be coupled to antenna feed **102** of antenna **40** using transmission line **92**. Antenna feed **102** may include a positive antenna feed terminal such as positive antenna feed terminal **98** and may have a ground antenna feed terminal such as ground antenna feed terminal **100**. Transmission line **92** may be formed from metal traces on a printed circuit or other conductive structures and may have a positive transmission line signal path such as path **94** that is coupled to terminal **98** and a ground transmission line signal path such as path **96** that is coupled to terminal **100**. Transmission line paths such as path **92** may be used to route antenna signals within device **10**. For example, transmission line paths may be used to couple antenna structures such as one or more antennas in an array of antennas to transceiver circuitry **90**. Transmission lines in device **10** may include coaxial cable paths, microstrip transmission lines, stripline transmission lines, edge-coupled microstrip transmission lines, edge-coupled stripline transmission lines, transmission lines formed from combinations of transmission lines of these types, etc. Filter circuitry, switching circuitry, impedance matching circuitry, and other circuitry may be interposed within transmission line **92** and/or circuits such as these may be incorporated into antenna **40** (e.g., to support antenna tuning, to support operation in desired frequency bands, etc.).

If desired, signals for millimeter wave antennas may be distributed within device **10** using intermediate frequencies (e.g., frequencies of about 5-15 GHz rather than 60 Hz). The intermediate frequency signals may, for example, be distributed from a baseband processor or other wireless communications circuit located near the middle of device **10** to one or more arrays of millimeter wave antennas at the corners of device **10**. At each corner, upconverter and downconverter circuitry may be coupled to the intermediate frequency path. The upconverter circuitry may convert received intermediate frequency signals from the baseband processor to millimeter wave signals (e.g., signals at 60 GHz) for transmission by a millimeter wave antenna array. The downconverter circuitry may downconvert millimeter wave antenna signals from the millimeter wave antenna array to intermediate frequency signals that are then conveyed to the baseband processor over the intermediate frequency path.

Device **10** may contain multiple antennas **40**. The antennas may be used together or one of the antennas may be switched into use while other antenna(s) are switched out of use. If desired, control circuitry **28** may be used to select an optimum antenna to use in device **10** in real time and/or to select an optimum setting for adjustable wireless circuitry associated with one or more of antennas **40**. Antenna adjustments may be made to tune antennas to perform in desired frequency ranges, to perform beam steering with a phased antenna array, and to otherwise optimize antenna performance. Sensors may be incorporated into antennas **40** to gather sensor data in real time that is used in adjusting antennas **40**.

In some configurations, antennas **40** may include antenna arrays (e.g., phased antenna arrays to implement beam steering functions). For example, the antennas that are used in handling millimeter wave signals for extremely high frequency wireless transceiver circuits **46** may be implemented as phased antenna arrays. The radiating elements in a phased antenna array for supporting millimeter wave communications may be patch antennas, dipole antennas, dipole antennas with directors and reflectors in addition to dipole antenna resonating elements (sometimes referred to as Yagi antennas or beam antennas), or other suitable antenna elements. Transceiver circuitry can be integrated with the phased antenna arrays to form integrated phased antenna array and transceiver circuit modules.

An illustrative dipole antenna is shown in FIG. **4**. As shown in FIG. **4**, dipole antenna **40** may have first and second arms such as arms **40-1** and **40-2** and may be fed at antenna feed **102**. If desired, a dipole antenna such as dipole antenna **40** of FIG. **4** may be incorporated into a Yagi antenna (e.g., by incorporating a reflector and directors into dipole antenna **40** of FIG. **4**).

An illustrative patch antenna is shown in FIG. **5**. As shown in FIG. **5**, patch antenna **40** may have a patch antenna resonating element **40P** that is separated from and parallel to a ground plane such as antenna ground plane **40G**. Arm **41** may be coupled between patch antenna resonating element **40P** and positive antenna feed terminal **98** of antenna feed **102**. Ground antenna feed terminal **100** of feed **102** may be coupled to ground plane **40G**.

Antennas of the types shown in FIGS. **4** and **5** and/or other antennas **40** may be used in forming millimeter wave antennas. The examples of FIGS. **4** and **5** are merely illustrative.

FIG. **6** is a diagram of an illustrative antenna **40** based on an inverted-F antenna resonating element. Antenna **40** of FIG. **6** may be, for example, an inverted-F antenna or a hybrid inverted-F slot antenna. Antenna **40** of FIG. **6** may be

used in forming cellular telephone antennas, wireless local network antennas, satellite navigation system antennas, and/or other antennas in device **10**.

As shown in FIG. **6**, antenna **40** may include an antenna resonating element such as antenna resonating element **110** and an antenna ground such as antenna ground **112**. Antenna resonating element **110** may have one or more branches such as low-frequency arm **116** and high frequency arm **114**. Arms of different lengths in element **110** may provide element **110** with the ability to resonate at multiple frequency bands of interest. Return path **118** (sometimes referred to as a short circuit path) may be coupled between resonating element **110** and ground **112**. Antenna feed **102** may include positive antenna feed terminal **98** and ground antenna feed terminal **100** and may be coupled between element **110** and ground **112** in parallel with return path **118**. One or more components **120** (switches, tunable circuits such as tunable capacitors, tunable inductors, etc.) may be coupled between antenna ground **112** and resonating element arms **114** and **116**. Components **120** may be adjusted to tune antenna **40**.

If desired, antenna resonating element arms **114** and **116** may be separated from ground **112** by a dielectric gap that serves as a slot antenna resonating element (e.g., slot **122** of FIG. **6**). In this type of arrangement, antenna **40** may be a hybrid inverted-F slot antenna and may receive resonant contributions from both the inverted-F antenna resonating element arm(s) **114** and **116** and from the slot antenna formed from slot **122**. In other illustrative configurations, slot **122** does not contribute any slot resonances to antenna **40** (e.g., antenna **40** may operate as an inverted-F antenna). Antennas such as antenna **40** of FIG. **6** (e.g., inverted-F antennas, slot antennas, hybrid inverted-F slot antennas, etc.) and/or other types of antenna (e.g., patch antennas, loop antennas, etc.) may be used in supporting cellular telephone communications, wireless local area network communications (e.g., communications at 2.4 and 5 GHz, etc.) and/or other wireless communications.

Antennas **40** may be formed from sheet metal parts (e.g., strips of sheet metal embedded in molded plastic or attached to dielectric supports using adhesive, etc.), may be formed from wires, may be formed from portions of conductive housing structures (e.g., metal walls in housing **12**), and/or may be formed from conductive structures such as metal traces on a printed circuit or other substrate. Printed circuits in device **10** may be rigid printed circuit boards formed from rigid printed circuit board substrate material (e.g., fiberglass-filled epoxy) and/or may be flexible printed circuit boards (e.g., printed circuits formed from sheets of polyimide or other flexible polymer layers). In some configurations, antenna substrates may be formed from other dielectrics (e.g., ceramics, glass, etc.).

FIG. **7** is a perspective view of an illustrative millimeter wave antenna array **40A** formed from antenna resonating elements on millimeter wave antenna array substrate **124**. Array **40A** may include an array of millimeter wave antennas such as patch antennas **40** formed from patch antenna resonating elements **40P** and dipole antennas **40** formed from arms **40-1** and **40-2**. With one illustrative configuration, dipole antennas **40** may be formed around the periphery of substrate **124** and patch antennas **40** may form an array on the central surface of substrate **124**. There may be any suitable number of millimeter wave antennas **40** in array **40A**. For example, there may be 10-40, 32, more than 5, more than 10, more than 20, more than 30, fewer than 50, or other suitable number of millimeter wave antennas (patch antennas and/or dipole antennas, etc.). Substrate **124** may be

formed from one or more layers of dielectric (polymer, ceramic, etc.) and may include patterned metal traces for forming millimeter wave antennas and signal paths. The signals paths may couple the millimeter wave antennas to circuitry such as one or more electrical devices **126** mounted on substrate **124**. Device(s) **126** may include one or more integrated circuits, discrete components, upconverter circuitry, downconverter circuitry, (e.g., upconverter and downconverter circuitry that forms part of a transceiver), circuitry for adjusting signal amplitude and/or phase to perform beam steering, and/or other circuitry for operating antenna array **40A**.

A cross-sectional side view of device **10** in an illustrative configuration in which device **10** includes a display covering the front face of device **10** and has a rear housing wall on the rear face of device **10** through which antennas may operate is shown in FIG. **8**. As shown in FIG. **8**, device **10** may have housing sidewalls such as housing sidewalls **12W**. Housing sidewalls **12W** may have flat shapes that extend vertically (along dimension *Z*) or may have curved cross-sectional shapes that extend upwardly from rear wall **12R** toward display **14**. Housing sidewalls **12W** may be formed from metal or other suitable material. Display **14** may include a transparent display cover layer such as display cover layer **150**. Display cover layer **150** may be formed from transparent glass, crystalline material such as sapphire, clear plastic, or other suitable material. Display cover layer **150** may overlap display module (display) **152**. Display **152** may be an organic light-emitting diode display, a liquid crystal display, or other suitable display and may overlap some, nearly all, or all of the front face of device **10** (e.g., display **152** may cover 80% or more of the front of device **10**, 90% or more of the front of device **10**, 95% or more of the front of device **10**, or 99% or more of the front of device **10**). Display **152** may be attached to the underside of display cover layer **150** using adhesive or may be separated from display cover layer **150** by an air gap. If desired, a touch sensor layer (e.g., a layer of polymer covered on one side or two opposing sides with capacitive touch sensor electrodes) may be interposed between display **152** and display cover layer **150**. Touch sensor electrodes may also be formed within display **152**.

Device **10** may have structural support members such as internal housing frame structures and/or other structures that help ensure that device **10** is sufficiently robust. Device **10** may, for example, have one or more internal sheet metal parts (e.g., stamped sheet metal parts) such as midplate **154**. Midplate **154** may, for example, be coupled to metal housing sidewalls **12W** by welds. Midplate **154** may be interposed between display **152** and rear housing wall **12R**. Air gaps adjacent to midplate **154** such as air gaps **156** may be filled with batteries, integrated circuits, printed circuit boards, and/or other device components (see, e.g., control circuitry **28** and input-output circuitry **44** of FIG. **2**).

Rear housing wall **12R** may be formed from any suitable material. With one illustrative arrangement, some, nearly all, or all of rear housing wall **12R** (e.g., the outer layer of housing wall **12R**) may be formed from a dielectric such as glass, plastic, sapphire or other crystalline dielectric, etc. An optional inner housing wall portion for rear housing wall **12R** may have portions formed from different materials (e.g., different dielectric materials, metal, etc.). Dielectric material for rear housing wall **12R** may, for example, cover 80% or more of the rear of device **10**, 90% or more of the rear of device **10**, 95% or more of the rear of device **10**, or 99% or more of the rear of device **10**. With this type of

arrangement, the outer surface of the rear face of device **10** may be covered with glass or plastic.

Due to the presence of dielectric in rear housing wall **12R**, antennas **40** may transmit and receive antenna signals through at least this portion of wall **12R**. For example, antennas **40** may transmit and/or receive cellular telephone signals, wireless local area network signals, satellite navigation system signals, near-field communications signals, and millimeter wave signals and/or other antenna signals through glass or plastic portions of wall **12R**.

FIGS. **9** and **10** are top interior views of an illustrative end portion (at an end **50**) of device **10**. As shown in FIG. **9**, metal housing sidewall **12W** may have gaps **20** that are filled with plastic or other dielectric. The segment of metal housing sidewall **12W** that extends between gaps **20** along the peripheral edge of device **10** may form an inverted-F antenna resonating element (see, e.g., arms **114** and **116** of FIG. **6**) and may be fed using an antenna feed such as antenna feed **102** that extend between the inverted-F antenna resonating element and an antenna ground. The antenna ground may be formed from printed circuit board ground traces, internal metal structures in device **10**, and/or ground plane structures such as metal midplate member **154**. Gap **208** may be filled with air, plastic, and/or other dielectric. Protruding portion **154P** of midplate **154** may lie between the main portion of gap **208** and end **210** of gap **208**, which may extend between midplate portion **154P** and the rest of midplate **154**.

Millimeter wave antenna array **40A** may be mounted on protruding portion **154P**. In the example of FIG. **9**, antenna array **40A** is mounted in the upper right corner of device **10**. This is merely illustrative. Antenna arrays **40A** may be mounted in some or all of the four corners of device **10** and/or elsewhere in device **10**.

Upconverter and downconverter circuitry **204** and other circuitry (see, e.g., circuitry **126** of FIG. **7**) may be coupled to baseband processor **200** via intermediate frequency (IF) path **202**. Antenna array **40A** may include an array of millimeter wave antenna elements such as patch elements and/or dipoles, etc. (see, e.g., antennas **40** of FIG. **7**). Substrate **124** of antenna array **40A** may have an edge that is aligned with edge **214** of midplate **154** or may be recessed by a distance *W* (e.g., a distance less than 1 mm, less than 0.5 mm, more than 0.1 mm, etc.) from edge **214**. Gap **208** may have a width *G* of 0.1-4 mm, more than 0.3 mm, more than 0.6 mm, more than 0.9 mm, less than 2.4 mm, less than 2.0 mm, less than 1.6 mm, less than 1.2 mm, or less than 0.8 mm.

In the configuration of FIG. **9**, the ends of slot **208** such as slot (gap) end portion **210** extend inwardly from sidewalls **12W** (parallel to the *X* dimension) and may separate portions of midplate **154** such as midplate protrusion **154P** and millimeter wave antenna **40A** from more central portions of midplate **154**. FIG. **10** shows an illustrative configuration for device **10** in which the ends **210** of slot **208** do not extend inwardly from sidewall **12W**. In this arrangement, millimeter wave antenna array **40A** may be located adjacent to slot end **210**, so that slot end **210** separates array **40A** from wall **12W**. Other locations for antenna **40A** may be used, if desired. The configurations of device **10** that are shown in FIGS. **9** and **10** are merely illustrative.

As shown in the illustrative cross-sectional side view of device **10** of FIG. **11**, millimeter wave antenna arrays such as array **40A** of FIG. **7** may be mounted below midplate **154** (see, e.g., illustrative array **40A-1**), may be mounted above midplate **154** (see, e.g., illustrative array **40A-2**), or may be

11

mounted so that substrate **124** protrudes through an opening in midplate **154** (see, e.g., illustrative antenna array **40A-3**).

Substrates **124** may include ground plane traces such as ground plane trace **160** of array **40A-1**. Conductive paths may short ground plane trace **160** to metal midplate **154**. For example, one or more metal screws or other fasteners such as screw **162** may be used to electrically couple ground plane trace **160** to midplate **154** while mounting substrate **124** of array **40A-1** to rear surface **308** of midplate **154**. Components such as circuit **126** may be mounted to substrate **124** and may face the inner surface of rear housing wall **12R**. Rear housing wall **12R** may be formed from dielectric (e.g., glass, sapphire, or other material of thickness T between 0.1 and 5 mm, between 0.4 and 1.2 mm, between 0.5 and 0.9 mm, less than 1 mm, etc.) and/or other layers of material (e.g., portions of wall **12R** may be supported by a layer of sheet metal in regions that do not block antenna signals, etc.). If desired, substrate **124** may be coupled to a printed circuit board (e.g., a printed circuit interposed between midplate **154** and substrate **124**). The configuration of FIG. **11** is illustrative.

Illustrative millimeter wave antenna arrays such as antenna array **40A-2** and antenna array **40A-3** may be mounted on substrates such as printed circuits **306** and **304**, respectively. Midplate **154** may have openings such as openings **302** and **300**. Antenna array **40A-2** may be positioned between display **152** and midplate **154** so that array **40A-2** and the antennas **40** on array **40A-2** may operate through opening **302**. Opening **302** may have a diameter (lateral size) D of about 0.5-2 mm, more than 0.2 mm, more than 0.8 mm, more than 1.4 mm, more than 1.8 mm, less than 3 mm, less than 2.6 mm, less than 2.2 mm, etc. that is sufficiently large to allow antennas **40** to transmit and/or receive millimeter wave antenna signals through opening **302** (and through overlapping portions of rear wall **12R**). Opening **300** in midplate **154** may have a size that accommodates substrate **124** of antenna array **40A-3**. In particular, opening **300** may be sufficiently large to allow at least a portion of substrate **124** to protrude up and into (and, if desired, through) opening **300** so that antennas **40** of array **40A-3** may transmit and receive signals through the overlapping portion of rear wall **12R**.

The foregoing is merely illustrative and various modifications can be made to the described embodiments. The foregoing embodiments may be implemented individually or in any combination.

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device having opposing front and rear faces, comprising:

a housing having a rear housing wall that covers the rear face;

a display in the housing that covers the front face;

a metal midplate that is interposed between the display and the rear housing wall and that has an opening; and

a millimeter wave antenna array having a substrate and an array of millimeter wave antennas on the substrate, wherein at least a part of the substrate protrudes through the opening towards the rear housing wall and the part of the substrate that protrudes through the opening is laterally surrounded by the metal midplate.

2. The electronic device defined in claim **1** wherein:

at least a portion of the rear housing wall comprises a dielectric layer; and

the millimeter wave antenna array is configured to transmit and receive millimeter wave antenna signals through the dielectric layer.

12

3. The electronic device defined in claim **1** wherein: the rear housing wall comprises a glass layer; and the millimeter wave antenna array is configured to transmit and receive millimeter wave antenna signals through the glass layer.

4. The electronic device defined in claim **1** further comprising at least one metal sidewall in the housing that is configured to form an inverted-F antenna resonating element.

5. The electronic device defined in claim **4** wherein the inverted-F antenna resonating element is separated by a gap from a portion of the metal midplate that serves as an antenna ground plane.

6. The electronic device defined in claim **5** wherein the millimeter wave antenna array includes upconverter and downconverter circuitry on the substrate and the array of millimeter wave antennas comprises an array of patch antennas on the substrate.

7. The electronic device defined in claim **6** wherein the inverted-F antenna resonating element is configured to transmit and receive cellular telephone signals at a frequency between 700 MHz and 3.8 GHz and the display covers all of the front face.

8. An electronic device having opposing front and rear faces, comprising:

a housing having a dielectric rear housing wall that covers the rear face;

a display in the housing that covers the front face;

a metal midplate that is interposed between the display and the rear housing wall; and

a millimeter wave antenna array having a substrate and an array of millimeter wave antennas on the substrate, wherein the millimeter wave antenna array is interposed between the metal midplate and the rear housing wall and is configured to transmit and receive millimeter wave antenna signals through the rear housing wall, the array of millimeter wave antennas includes a plurality of dipole antennas formed from first and second arms and a plurality of patch antennas formed from patch antenna resonating elements, the plurality of dipole antennas are formed around a periphery of the substrate, and the plurality of patch antennas are formed in a center of the substrate surrounded by the plurality of dipole antennas.

9. The electronic device defined in claim **8** wherein the rear housing wall comprises a glass layer and wherein the millimeter wave antenna array is configured to transmit and receive millimeter wave antenna signals through the glass layer.

10. The electronic device defined in claim **9** wherein the millimeter wave antenna array has a ground trace in the substrate that is electrically coupled to the metal midplate.

11. The electronic device defined in claim **10** further comprising at least one metal sidewall in the housing that is configured to form an inverted-F antenna resonating element.

12. The electronic device defined in claim **11** wherein the metal midplate has a portion that serves as an antenna ground plane, the inverted-F antenna resonating element is separated by a gap from the antenna ground plane, and the inverted-F antenna resonating element and the antenna ground plane form a cellular telephone antenna.

13. The electronic device defined in claim **8** wherein the millimeter wave antenna array comprises at least one integrated circuit mounted on the substrate.

13

14. The electronic device defined in claim 8 wherein the millimeter wave antenna array comprises upconverter and downconverter circuitry on the substrate.

15. An electronic device having opposing front and rear faces, comprising:

a housing having a rear housing wall that covers the rear face;

a display in the housing that covers the front face;

a metal midplate that is interposed between the display and the rear housing wall and that has an opening; and

a millimeter wave antenna array having a substrate and an array of millimeter wave antennas on the substrate, wherein the millimeter wave antenna array is interposed between the display and the metal midplate and is configured to transmit and receive millimeter wave antenna signals through the opening in the metal midplate.

16. The electronic device defined in claim 15 wherein at least a portion of the rear housing wall comprises a dielectric and the millimeter wave antenna array is configured to transmit and receive the millimeter wave antennas signals through the dielectric.

17. The electronic device defined in claim 15 wherein: the rear housing wall comprises a glass layer; and the millimeter wave antenna array is configured to transmit and receive millimeter wave antenna signals through the glass layer.

14

18. The electronic device defined in claim 17 further comprising at least one metal sidewall in the housing that is configured to form an inverted-F antenna resonating element that is separated from the metal midplate by a gap.

19. The electronic device defined in claim 18 wherein the millimeter wave antenna array comprises upconverter and downconverter circuitry on the substrate and the array of millimeter wave antennas comprises an array of patch antennas on the substrate.

20. The electronic device defined in claim 15, wherein: the housing further comprises first and second sidewalls on opposing first and second sides of the rear housing wall; and the metal midplate extends between and is coupled to the first and second sidewalls.

21. The electronic device defined in claim 15, wherein the array of millimeter wave antennas includes a plurality of dipole antennas formed from first and second arms and a plurality of patch antennas formed from patch antenna resonating elements.

22. The electronic device defined in claim 21, wherein: the plurality of dipole antennas are formed around a periphery of the substrate; and the plurality of patch antennas are formed in a center of the substrate surrounded by the plurality of dipole antennas.

* * * * *